

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----221703Z 073053 /43  
R 221438Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3696

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MONTEVIDEO 1537

EXDIS

FOR ASST SECRETARY TODMAN FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, UY  
SUBJ: FAREWELL CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER

1. IN A CORDIAL FAREWELL CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER ROVIRA, OUR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION CENTERED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON THE STATE OF US-URUGUAYAN RELATIONS AND ON WHAT MIGHT BE DONE TO RESTORE THEM, BUILDING ON THE UNSHAKEN FOUNDATION OF GOODWILL AND FRIENDSHIP WHICH CERTAINLY THE URUGUAYAN PEOPLE FEEL TOWARD THE UNITED STATES. I WILL NOT GO INTO DETAIL OF THE GIVE-AND-TAKE OF THE DISCUSSION WHICH WOULD BE REPETITIVE OF MUCH OF OUR RECENT REPORTING OF COMMENTARY, ESPECIALLY ON HUMAN RIGHTS, AND URUGUAY'S REACTION TO RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN WASHINGTON, INCLUDING PRESIDENT CARTER'S SPEECH AND STATEMENTS MADE BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN AND MS. DERIAN.

HIGHLIGHTS WERE:

A) FOR MY PART, I SUGGESTED THAT I WOULD URGE THE DEPARTMENT TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THE URUGUAYAN NOTE CONCERNING A POSSIBLE HIGH-LEVEL VISIT AND, ESPECIALLY, TO AT LEAST ENTER TENTATIVE, EXPLORATORY DISCUSSIONS ON THIS IDEA, IN WASHINGTON AND IN MONTEVIDEO. I SUGGESTED ALSO THAT RELATED TO  
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THIS IDEA MIGHT BE SOME MOVES TO STIMULATE THE KIND OF UN-OFFICIAL VISITS WHICH URUGUAY SAYS IT WOULD LIKE TO HAVE IN ORDER TO GIVE A BETTER APPRECIATION TO PERCEPTIVE AMERICANS OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THIS COUNTRY TODAY. I SAID, HOWEVER, THAT WHILE THE PERCEPTION WHICH WOULD BE RECEIVED FROM SEEING THE COUNTRY AND THE LIFESTYLE OF ITS PEOPLE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE A GOOD ONE, THERE WOULD REMAIN WITH SERIOUS PEOPLE A

NAGGING CONCERN ABOUT WHAT HAD NOT BEEN SEEN. DEVISING A MEANS OF RELIEVING THIS CONCERN SHOULD RECEIVE SERIOUS GOU ATTENTION. OTHERWISE, I SAID, WHILE PEOPLE MIGHT WELL ACCEPT THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF URUGUAYANS LIVE IN TRANQUILITY AND WITH A REASONABLE RELATIONSHIP TO THEIR GOVERNMENT, THEY WOULD STILL BE CONCERNED THAT AN SMALL MINORITY MIGHT BE SUFFERING ABUSE AND MISTREATMENT AND IT WAS THIS PROBLEM WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE SOLVED. I COULD NOT, I SAID, STATE HOW THIS COULD BE DONE EXCEPT TO RECOMMEND THAT MEANS BE FOUND TO DEVELOP GREATER OPENNESS IN THE PROCEDURES OF GOVERNMENT HERE, INCLUDING FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA TO WITNESS AND REPORT WITHOUT FEAR AND TO RESTORE DUE PROCESS OF LAW. THIS FOR ME WOULD MEAN, I SAID, ASSURING THAT PERSONS ARRESTED ON SUBVERSIVE CHARGES HAD RAPID AND READY ACCESS TO LEGAL ADVICE AND VISITS BY FAMILIES. THEY SHOULD ALSO PROMPTLY KNOW THE CHARGES AGAINST THEM AND BE TRIED IN THE PUBLIC VIEW. I ALSO SAID THAT I HAD OFTEN EXPRESSED MY PERSONAL CONCERN, AND REPORTED THIS TO MY GOVERNMENT, ABOUT CERTAIN METHODS OF DETENTION AND INTERROGATION IN THE EARLY STAGES WHICH SEEM TO BE INCONSISTENT WITH ANY SECURITY REQUIREMENTS IN URUGUAY TODAY. I SAID I FOUND UNCONVINCING JUSTIFICATION OF SUCH MEANS BY THE FORCE OF TERRORISM AND SUBVERSION AGAINST URUGUAYAN SOCIETY SINCE, IF SUCH A JUSTIFICATION MIGHT BRIEFLY HAVE BEEN TENABLE AT THE HEIGHT OF THE TERRORISM, IT SURELY DOES NOT HAVE APPLICATION TODAY.

B) THE MINISTER FOR HIS PART STRESSED THE DEPTH OF URUGUAYAN FRIENDSHIP FOR THE UNITED STATES AND THE GOU'S HOPE THAT SURFACE RELATIONS COULD SOON BE REPAIRED AS THIS WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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MOST REASSURING TO THE URUGUAYAN PEOPLE. HE SAID THAT ON THE GREAT ISSUES FACING THE WORLD THE UNITED STATES COULD CONTINUE TO COUNT ON URUGUAY TO BE AN ALLY OF CONVICTION BECAUSE ITS BELIEFS ARE PARALLEL TO OURS. HE SAID HE VIEWED THE UNITED STATES AS THE LAST BASTION OF LIBERTY AND

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-----221703Z 072799 /43

R 221438Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3697

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MONTEVIDEO 1537

EXDIS

FOR ASST SECRETARY TODMAN FROM AMBASSADOR

DEMOCRACY WHICH HAD TO BE DEFENDED AT ALL COSTS AGAINST THE IMPLACABLE COMMUNIST ENEMY, AND THAT URUGUAY WOULD SUPPORT THE U.S. IN THIS CAUSE EVEN IF UPSET BY A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING SUCH AS, HE SAID, HAS RECENTLY BEEN SHOWN BY THE UNITED STATES. HE SAID THAT THERE ARE CURRENTS WITHIN THE URUGUAYAN MILITARY TODAY, ESPECIALLY AMONG YOUNGER OFFICERS, WHICH ARE DEMANDING EVEN STRONGER METHODS THAN THE CURRENT HIGH COMMAND IS WILLING TO APPLY. ALSO, THAT REGARDLESS OF WHAT ANYONE ELSE MIGHT THINK THE PROCESS WHICH IS EMBARKED UPON HERE TO DEFEND URUGUAY AGAINST ITS PERCEIVED MARXIST ENEMY, AND TO WORK TOWARDS SOME FORM OF EVENTUAL POLITICAL RESTORATION WHICH MIGHT BE ABLE TO DEFEND ITSELF, WILL NOT BE ALTERED. THE PROCESS, THEREFORE, WILL BE ONE OF YEARS AND HE FELT THAT BASICALLY IT IS ACCEPTED AS NEEDED BY MOST OF THE RESPONSIBLE POLITICAL LEADERS OF THE PAST ERA WHO RECOGNIZE THE FAILINGS OF THE FORMER SYSTEM. HE AGREED THAT URUGUAY WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS TOWARD THE POSSIBILITY OF A HIGH-LEVEL VISIT AND ESPECIALLY TO FIND MEANS OF ENCOURAGING A BROAD SPECTRUM OF UNOFFICIAL VISITORS HERE. HE COULD NOT HELP BUT BELIEVE, HE SAID, THAT THEY WOULD BE WELL IMPRESSED AND HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD COOPERATE TO SHOW THEM WHAT THEY WANTED TO SEE. HE NOTED THAT URUGUAY

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IS ATTRACTIVE TO MANY BECAUSE OF THE TRANQUILITY AND STABILITY OF ITS SOCIETY TODAY, AS IS EVIDENCED BY THE INTEREST SHOWN BY FOREIGN CAPITAL TO INVEST HERE RATHER THAN IN OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE INSTABILITY THREATENS INVESTMENT INTERESTS. AS FOR THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION HE SAID THAT FOR THE MOMENT THERE IS NO CHANCE THAT IT COULD BE INVITED TO COME HERE. HE SAID THE COMMISSION IS MISREPRESENTING URUGUAY AND HE BLAMES ITS VENEZUELAN CHAIRMAN. TO THIS STATEMENT I OBSERVED THAT IF URUGUAY WOULD ACHIEVE GREATER OPENNESS AND RESTORE DUE PROCESS AS I HAD SUGGESTED THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR OUTSIDE INSPECTION WHICH THE GOU FINDS OBJECTIONABLE OR UNACCEPTABLE.

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## Message Attributes

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